

CITY OF LAS VEGAS DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

# BLOCK by BLOCK

*MAKING GREAT THINGS HAPPEN*



Area residents are celebrating National Make a Difference Day after marching through the neighborhood streets with the theme "Taking Back Our Neighborhood." The significance of the march was to create public awareness in the area; to reduce crime, graffiti, gangs, and to maintain a clean and safe neighborhood. A celebration ensued at the Clark High School baseball field with music, food, face painting and jumpers.

#### ALSO INSIDE:

Community Responds To Bus Stop Shootings

Doolittle Senior Center Getting Facelift

Visiting Conventioneers Greenup-Cleanup-Fixup Five Sites

Project Homeless Connect Helps Thousands of Homeless Individuals



**WINTER 2007 - 2008**



# Community Responds To Bus Stop Shootings

On what seemed to be an ordinary Tuesday on December 11, a hail of bullets rang out as Mohave High students exited their school bus. The barrage injured six young people; two seriously. The bus stop shootings are the worst incident of Clark County school-related violence in our history. But shootings in schools seem to be more common recently and are part of a disturbing nationwide trend of youth violence that some are calling an epidemic.

Two days after the bus stop shootings, Operation Lasting Peace gathered to hold a "Community Response." The response set out to send the message that the community is not complacent about the violence occurring in the community.

Operation Lasting Peace representatives from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the city of Las Vegas Leisure Services and Neighborhood Services Departments and community and faith organizations talked with students and offered information about services and programs available in the community.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention is giving the issue serious attention. The CDC reports, "In 2003, 5,570 young people ages 10 to 24 were murdered—an average of 15 each day. Of these victims, 82 percent were killed with firearms. Among 10 to 24 year olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics, and the third leading cause of death for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Asian/Pacific Islanders."

Several local organizations have joined forces to create Operation Lasting Peace (OLP) to bring a message of non-violence and safety to Las Vegas Valley youth. OLP is a community mobilization initiative, operated through the Southern Nevada Community Gang Task Force, and partnered with the city of Las Vegas and the Nevada Youth Alliance.

Youth violence can be traced to several risk factors including family, peers and community. The city is working to reduce community risk factors.

## **Community Risk Factors**

- Diminished economic opportunities
- High concentrations of poor residents
- High level of transiency
- High level of family disruption
- Low levels of community participation
- Socially disorganized neighborhoods



Reducing these community risk factors is an ongoing challenge that involves getting the community involved and providing young residents with opportunities that will counter the pull to get involved with violence and other negative activities. The city has a comprehensive strategy to organize neighborhoods and get them involved and to engage youth through Batteries Included which offers youth opportunities related to health and safety, education and leadership through a variety of programs.

# New Affordable Apartment Complex Adds 120 Units Of Quality Living For Seniors

A new affordable apartment complex for seniors celebrated a grand opening. Phase I of the Senator Richard Bryan Senior Apartments, located at 2651 Searles Avenue, will offer 120 affordable housing units for seniors 55 years old or older, whose income is at 60 percent of area median income or less.

**20 studio units,  
48 one-bedroom units,  
and 52 two-bedroom units...**



The land for this project is owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas. The authority is leasing the land to the non-profit developer for 50 years at a nominal rate. Of the 120 units, 20 will be built with \$1,670,000 in federal funds allocated by the city of Las Vegas. The total cost of the project is \$13,409,085.

The project is being developed by Community Development Programs Center of Nevada. The 120 units located in Ward 3 of the city will include 20 studio units, 48 one-bedroom units, and 52 two-bedroom units.

The project is owned by the Senator Richard Bryan Limited Partnership, which consists of Affordable Housing Program, Inc., a subsidiary of the Housing

Authority of the City of Las Vegas, and SunAmerica Housing Fund 1316, a Nevada limited partnership and tax credit investment firm that will invest a total of \$7,363,527 in the project.

## Sustain and Maintain Our World

Common household activities are a major contributor to polluted runoff, which is among the biggest sources of water contamination. Fertilizer from lawns, oil from driveways, paint and solvent residues from walls and decks and even waste from pets get into storm sewers and end up in the lake -- the same lake we rely on for drinking, bathing, swimming and fishing. Here are some ways you can help reduce polluted runoff.

Use nontoxic household products. Discarding toxic products correctly is important, but not using them in the first place is better. Ask local stores to carry nontoxic products if they don't already. For examples of safe substitutes for toxic household products, check EPA's pollution prevention Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/p2/>.





# Las Vegas City Council Approves Twenty-Two Grass-Roots Neighborhood Improvement Projects



The Las Vegas City Council gave unanimous approval to provide \$75,000 in Neighborhood Partners Fund grants for 22 community improvement projects across the city. The recipients are residents who will provide more than \$275,000 in matching labor and donations to improve their neighborhoods.

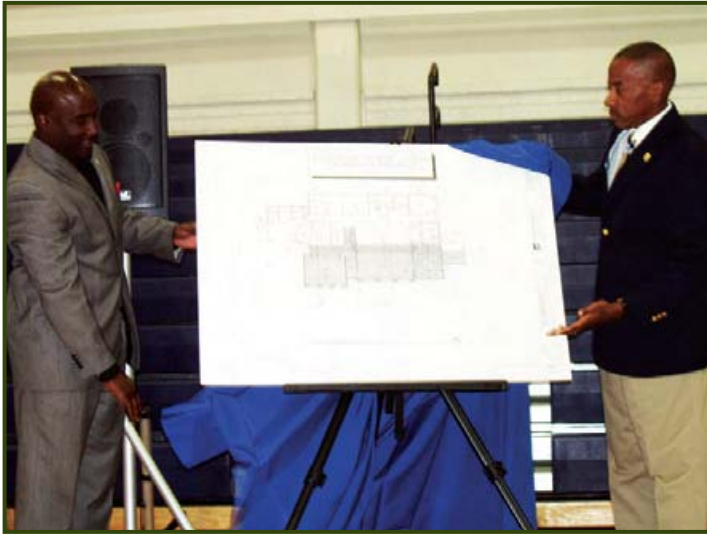
The Neighborhood Partners Fund Grants serve as an incentive to get residents to get involved in their neighborhoods. The city provides the seed money for neighborhood improvement projects and the residents provide matching labor or donations.

Since 1998, the Neighborhood Partners Fund, organized through the city's Neighborhood Services Department, has funded 193 neighborhood projects. These projects have generated close to \$2 million worth of matching volunteer labor or donations. The 22 projects approved this year include:

1. **Artesian Heights** - beautification project.
2. **Charleston Heights** - Neighborhood Preservation Area Seven communication enhancement project.
3. **Gateway District/Stupak Center** - back-to-school fair.
4. **Quail Estates West** - neighborhood beautification project.
5. **Rancho Bel Air** - safety and beautification project.
6. **Sartini Plaza Resident Council** - facility enhancement project.
7. **Aventura Association** - gateway project.
8. **Capri at Summerlin** - neighborhood safety project.
9. **Lakes Association** - 2006 Lakes Festival of Lights.
10. **Peccole Ranch Association** - Pump N' 5K Run.
11. **Archie Grant Association** - laundry room for senior and disabled individuals.
12. **John S. Park Association** - community project.
13. **Rulon Earl Mobile Manor** - security for seniors.
14. **American West Village II** - beautification, enhancement, and water conservation project.
15. **Desert Shores Community Association** - beautification of neighborhood entrances.
16. **Berkley Square** - beautification and safety project.
17. **Cultural Corridor Coalition** - educational and cultural enrichment project.
18. **Levy Gardens Resident Council** - communications and community building project.
19. **Orleans Square Association** - landscape improvement project.
20. **Grand Entries** - entrance repair and beautification project.
21. **The Preserve at Elkhorn** - communications and beautification project.
22. **Romano Ridge** - gate replacement.

The Neighborhood Partners Fund matches up to \$5,000 in funding to improve the quality of life in Las Vegas neighborhoods. Neighborhood Services promotes, develops and supports safe, healthy neighborhoods through partnerships, education and compliance. Residents can visit the city's Web site to see what services are available at [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov).

## Doolittle Senior Center Getting Facelift; Programs Transferred to Adjacent Community Center



*Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow and Commissioner Lawrence Weekly unveil the expansion plans.*

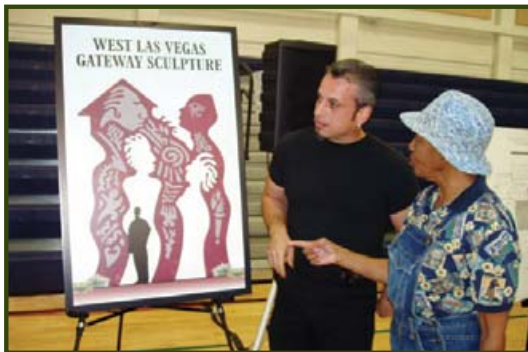
In late August, the Doolittle Senior Center, located at 950 N. J Street, closed to the public for a complete renovation and expansion project.

The center is undergoing a 4,595 square-foot expansion, making the facility 12,095 total square feet when complete. The new and improved center will consist of a large fitness

## The center is undergoing a 4,595 square-foot expansion...

room, 1,200 square-foot game room, arts and crafts room, health services room, dance and exercise room, library/TV room, conference room, multipurpose room and add additional restrooms. The construction project is scheduled to take approximately one year with an anticipated re-opening in late summer or early fall 2008.

Programs will continue during the construction process being held at the adjacent Doolittle Community Center. Operation hours for senior programs will be 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will consist of cards games, Laughlin trips, breakfast and movie, fitness classes, bingo, soul line dance, sewing, guitar class, special events, free blood pressure checks, guest speakers and day trips.



*Local artist Adolfo R. Gonzalez explains his sculpture rendition that will be the entry to the facility.*

## Nevada 37th Heaviest State In The Nation

Nevada tipped the scales as the 37th heaviest state in the nation according to a new report by Trust for America's Health entitled *F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies are Failing in America*, 2007.

Obesity rates rose in 31 states last year in what some are calling a health crisis.

Mississippi topped the list as the heaviest state. Colorado weighed-in as the leanest state.

The report ranked Nevada's children 36th heaviest.

Bigger waistlines are affecting our bottom lines in terms of spiraling health care costs for diseases such as stroke, high blood pressure, heart disease, gall bladder disease, osteoarthritis, gout and difficulty breathing, all linked to obesity. Lack of exercise and poor diet are behind the obesity rates, according The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A big factor in obesity rates is poverty. The five poorest states were all in the top 10 for obesity rates. Poor neighborhoods tend to have safety issues that deter children from playing.



Due to costs, fruits and vegetables, a staple of a healthy diet, are less accessible. Lower income populations also tend to have greater reliance on cheap fast food.

The report calls for a national strategy to combat obesity that makes healthy choices easy choices and promotes workplace wellness programs and other strategies to battle the bulge.

The city of Las Vegas continues to offer residents top notch parks and recreation facilities with classes and other activities to ensure residents have ample opportunities to get exercise. The city's Batteries Included youth initiative has a component that specifically promotes active and healthy lifestyles for youth and their families.

To get a look at the Trust for America's Health report visit <http://healthyamericans.org>.



# NEIGHBORHOODS *in action*



*Councilman Larry Brown at a town hall meeting in Lone Mountain West. Residents listened to updates on various public and private projects in the area and learned about future activities and development.*



*Councilman Steve Wolfson handed out backpacks to scores of excited children at the Ward 2 Back to School Fair.*



*Councilman Steven Ross and Mayor Oscar Goodman celebrate a Cowboy Christmas at Floyd Lamb Park.*

*Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian and Meadows Neighborhood Association residents celebrate winning the bike raffle at the Griffith Elementary School CommUNITY Fair.*



*Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese and City Manager Doug Selby unveil the new signage at the St. Louis Avenue Beautification Project dedication ceremony.*



*Councilman Steve Wolfson listens to residents' concerns at National Night Out in All American Park.*

*Rancho Springs Neighborhood residents pose with Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian and Santa (Rev. Stephen Smith, Downtown Business Operators Council) at the Christmas Block Party.*





# Visiting Conventioneers Greenup-Cleanup-Fixup Five Sites Around Las Vegas

When most conventioneers come to Las Vegas they spend their off time shopping, dining or enjoying the many entertainment options our city offers. During a November PepsiCo Growcery convention, the attendees teamed-up with the city, more than 250 students and Keep America Beautiful on five greenup-cleanup-fixup projects. The army of volunteers left the convention halls behind to paint, plant and beautify schools around the city and the YMCA. Several local business including Lowe's and Sherwin Williams contributed goods and services to the events. Each of the five sites also received a \$1,000 contribution from PepsiCo to use for follow up projects or essential needs. Companies giving back to communities they serve is part of a growing trend of corporate responsibility. It is a philosophy that the city embraces and hopes to see grow. Neighborhood Services helped to orchestrate the events. The city has planners and resources available to assist organizations looking to improve their communities. Contact Neighborhood Services at 229-2330 if you have a project in mind to keep your neighborhood beautiful.





# City Web Site Updates And Additions

## *City's Web Site Serves You Online*

"The city's Web site serves you online instead of in line," that is the proud motto of the IT department regarding the city's Web site. Users can report code issues, find out about grants, neighborhood associations, determine their council person, locate recreation centers, classes and much more. Some recent additions to the site offer residents interesting new options.

## *Historical Election Research Function*

Those with questions regarding past city elections now have an easy way to get answers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The city's new online election research function - [http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/elections\\_history.htm](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/elections_history.htm) allows users to search by candidate name, elected office, year or ballot question. The search returns such valuable information as election outcome and the amount and percentage of votes each candidate received. This information can be accessed by choosing "Elections" on the left-hand side of the Web site.

## *Language Translation*

An automated language translation function has also been added to the Web site. The function translates information on the Web site into 13 different languages, including Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Greek. This function can be accessed from the upper right corner of the Web site.

## *Interactive Map*

Also the city's Web site offers an interactive map showing federal, state, county and city government offices within the city limits. The map has many user-friendly features you'd expect to find on an interactive map such as pan, zoom and drag, and includes multiple views including satellite, map and hybrid. The map allows users to filter by government level such as federal, state, county and city, and then choose a location by clicking the left-hand column list or a pointer on the map. A bubble will appear with helpful information such as address and directions, floor numbers for various departments, parking information and more. This type of map will be used in the future for other projects such as a park finder and a map for redevelopment area projects. The map can be accessed by choosing "Publications" on the left-hand side of the Web site and then choosing "maps".



## *Text Site*

The new text version of the Web site will provide better access to those using older browser versions and slow Internet connections, screen readers for the visually impaired and alternative devices such as a cellular phone or PDA. A link to the regular version of the Web site is included on the text version so that visitors can easily choose which version they would like to browse. This function can be accessed from the upper right corner of the Web site.



# Affordable Housing



*Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese, Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow and Commissioner Lawrence Weekly together for the Stewart Pines III groundbreaking.*

## Affordable Housing For Seniors

Stewart Pines III apartment complex located at 233 North 13th Street is under construction to make more affordable housing available to seniors. The groundbreaking for the complex was held on October 22. The \$10.1 million development for seniors is a result of a collaboration of public and private support. Affordable housing continues to be an issue in Southern Nevada despite cooling real estate.

The 57-unit community will rent one-bedroom units at approximately \$338 - \$394 per month and two-bedroom units at approximately \$473 per month. Seniors must qualify with annual income at \$14,735 or below for a one-person household, and \$16,835 or below for a two-person household. Each unit will be cable-ready and will contain fully-appointed kitchens with a range, refrigerator, garbage disposal, ceiling fans, central heating and air conditioning, and a patio or balcony.

Additional features will include age-appropriate activities, a free common area, laundry facilities, a computer center with free Internet and printing service, a fitness center, covered parking, exterior storage and a fully-equipped medical exam room.

The Stewart Pines III senior apartment complex was made possible by a team of dedicated private and public partners including: an \$8.4 million investment of low income housing tax credit equity provided by MMA Financial, LLC., \$1.25 million of HOME/LIHTF funds from the city of Las Vegas and \$750,000 of HOME/LIHTF funds from Clark County.

## City Land Donation Makes Affordable Homes Possible For Families and Revitalizes Community

Maria Martinez, a single mother with two very excited children, cut the ribbon to her new first home on a warm October day. The moment



was the culmination of a lot of sweat equity from Maria and hundreds of Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

Seven new, affordable single-family homes for local families earning 60 percent or less of the area median income are either completed or near completion. Maria's home is the first home on the block. Her mortgage will be affordable thanks to the volunteers and partnerships that made the homes possible.

The land for the homes at Gregory Street in Ward 5 was donated by the city of Las Vegas. By leveraging public/private funding and partnerships, the agreement with Habitat for Humanity creates more affordable housing and contributes to the revitalization of a neighborhood.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that seeks to eliminate poverty and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. The organization has built more than 200,000 houses around the world with the help of thousands of volunteers.





# City New Owner Of Floyd Lamb Park At Tule Springs

Ownership of Floyd Lamb Park transferred from the state of Nevada to the city of Las Vegas. The park, formerly known as Tule Springs Park, has a special place in the history of Las Vegas.

Nearly \$160,000 was appropriated by the legislature to help rehabilitate the park.

The money will be used to fund future cultural programs, the visitor's center, an archeological museum and to preserve the historic buildings on the property.



**WINSTON CHURCHILL:**

***You make a living by what you get.  
You make a life by what you give.***

## Lone Mountain Cleanup

In September, the city of Las Vegas and the Bureau of Land Management held a cleanup at the base of Lone Mountain to celebrate National Public Lands Day. Illegal dumping and fireworks have taken a toll this Ward 4 landmark. Councilman Larry Brown, the Rapid Response Team, Field Operations, and 150 volunteers spent three hours picking up litter and debris from the area.

Dump trucks were lined up along Vegas Vista Trail to haul out the trash and debris that accumulated. Items such as a car frame, sofa, plastic tubing, spent fireworks, computer parts, and landscaping refuse were found and removed.

Volunteers represented such organizations as the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Explorers, Centennial High Lacrosse Team, Cub Scout Pack 812, and Canyon Ridge Christian Church, the Protectors of Tule Springs, the Southern Nevada Regional Trails Partnership, and Boy Scout Troop 246. Other volunteers came from the surrounding neighborhoods including Lone Mountain Vistas and Lone Mountain Heights.

Many of the volunteers enjoyed participating and expressed interest in future volunteer efforts with the city.





# Project Homeless Connect Helps Thousands of Homeless Individuals

Hundreds of volunteers, sponsors and public, private partners joined Project Homeless Connect at the Cashman Center in November to help thousands of local homeless people. The event formerly known as the Stand Down for the Homeless is sponsored by the Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA) and the city of Las Vegas.

## *Results from the 2007 Project Homeless Connect Event*

- 2,692 adults went through intake
  - 754 people accessed court services
  - 60 employed
  - 500 sought housing services
    - 226 placed
    - 20 pending
  - 335 sought veterans services
  - 20 applied at UNLV
  - 209 processed through the medical front line and triaged
    - 144 actually seen by the providers
    - 65 walked away without being seen
  - 3,000 shots given by noon
  - 60-70 kids participated in activities
- 69 animals got vet care, micro chips, nails, shots, food, toys
  - 2,500 ID cards were issued to individuals
  - 900 haircuts were given
  - 30 patients treated (extractions) by one NVHC dentist
  - 21 mammography screenings were provided



### **Las Vegas City Council**

Mayor Oscar B. Goodman

Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese • Ward 3

Councilman Larry Brown • Ward 4

Councilman Steve Wolfson • Ward 2

Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian • Ward 1

Councilman Steven D. Ross • Ward 6

Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow • Ward 5

### **City Managers Office**

Doug Selby, City Manager

Steve Houchens, Deputy City Manager

Elizabeth Fretwell, Deputy City Manager

Orlando Sanchez, Deputy City Manager

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Stephen Harsin, AICP, Director

### **Public Information Specialist**

Mary Ann Price

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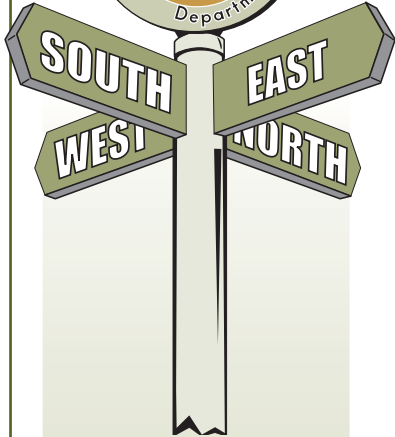
Michael Campbell, Graphic Artist

Graphic Arts Services

### **Contributing Reporters & Photographers**

Mayor and City Council Offices, City Manager's Office,  
Leisure Services, Detention & Enforcement,  
Office of Business and Development





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January 2008 • GA-34777

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## Important Phone Numbers

Mayor's Office ..... 229-6241  
City Council Office..... 229-6405  
City Manager's Office..... 229-6501  
City Attorney..... 229-6629  
City Clerk..... 229-6311  
Sheriff's Office ..... 229-3394  
METRO (non-emergency) .... 795-3111

**Emergency ..... 911**

Fire Department..... 383-2888  
Permits ..... 229-6251  
Planning & Development ..... 229-6301  
Leisure Services ..... 229-6297  
Neighborhood Services  
Department ..... 229-2330  
Neighborhood  
Response Division..... 229-6615

Citizen Hotline ..... 229-6615  
(graffiti, dangerous abatement, etc)  
Neighborhood  
Initiatives Division..... 229-6269  
Neighborhood  
Development Division .... 229-2555  
EVOLVE Center..... 638-6371  
Downtown Senior  
Services Center..... 229-6690



## Peccole Ranch Pump N Run



## Block by Block Needs Your Input!

*Block by block is a quarterly newsletter published by the city of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department. All neighborhood associations registered with the city's Neighborhood Partnership Program will receive this newsletter quarterly. To register, please contact Neighborhood Services at (702) 229-2330 or e-mail us at: [neighborhoodsonline@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:neighborhoodsonline@lasvegasnevada.gov).*

